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DETAILED ACTION***Claim Objections***

Claims 4-16 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent cannot depend from another multiple dependent claim. See MPEP § 608.01(n). Accordingly, the claims 4-16 have not been further treated on the merits.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The claim language contains the limitation of said additional groove serving to accommodate at least one clamping slide (15), the end of which remote from the center of the groove (6) forms a holder for

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one of the edges of the covering panel (5) and of the information carrier (4) not engaging in the guide grooves (2, 3). However, the applicant fails to describe the distinct limitation in the specification. On the contrary, applicant describes said slide ensures secure seating of the information carrier and the covering panel in the guide grooves of the main body. As best understood by the office, the clamping slide is in contact with guide grooves which secure the information carrier and the covering panel.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schmanski et al. (5,189,822).

Regarding claim 1, Schmanski et al. disclose a sign, in particular an information sign, having a main body 10 (col. 3, line 29; see fig. 1) and a transparent covering panel 28 (col. 4, line 2; see fig. 1), connected

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detachably with the main body, for a sheet-form information carrier 30 (col. 4, line 11; see fig. 1) suitable for accommodation between the main body 10 and the covering panel 28, and having means for securely holding together the main body, the covering panel 28 and the information carrier 30, the main body 10 being provided at two mutually opposing edges with guide grooves 18 (col. 4, line 36; see fig. 1) for two likewise mutually opposing edges of the covering panel 28 and of the information carrier 30, characterized in that the main body 10 additionally comprises at least one undercut groove 12 (col. 3, line 29; see fig. 1) between its edges provided with guide grooves 18, said additional groove serving to accommodate at least one clamping slide 32 (col. 4, line 18; see fig. 1), the end of which remote from the center of the groove forms a holder for one of the edges of the covering panel 28 and of the information carrier 30 not engaging in the guide grooves 18 (see fig. 2, where the slide is not in contact with the side groove 16).

Regarding claim 2, Schmanski et al. disclose a clamping slide 32 for the edges of the covering panel 28 and of the information carrier 30 not engaging in the guide grooves 16 (see fig. 2, where the slide is not in